



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

**A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor**

Office of Executive Inspector General

Ricardo Meza
Executive
Inspector General

Cole S. Kain
Chief of Staff &
General Counsel

James J. Bonk
Director of Investigations

Neil P. Olson
Deputy Director & Chief
of Springfield Division

Rochelle Hardy
Chief Financial &
Compliance Officer

David Keahl
Director of Ethics
Training & Compliance

Wendy Washington
Director of Human
Resources

Chicago Office:
32 W. Randolph Street
Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 814-5600

Springfield Office:
607 E. Adams Street
14th Floor
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 558-5600

Hotline:
Phone: (866) 814-1113

TTY:
(888) 261-2734

Recent News

The Office of Executive Inspector General congratulates former Deputy Inspector General **Thomas Klein** on his recent appointment as General Counsel for the Illinois Capital Development Board.

In light of the OEIG's expanded jurisdiction and increased responsibilities related to the Regional Transit Boards, we continue to work with members of the Illinois General Assembly in an effort to restore a portion of the nearly 17% of funds cut from OEIG's Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

The OEIG thanks **State Representative Fred Crespo** and **State Senator Susan Garrett** for sponsoring HB 3831, a bill seeking to increase transparency and the release of significant EIG summary reports. The OEIG looks forward to working with all HB 3831 stakeholders as the bill moves forward.

The OEIG is pleased to announce the appointment of three new Chicago staff:

- **Victor Gryniewicz**, a former special agent will serve as an investigator;
- **Kevin Wujciga**, a former investigator for a risk management firm will serve as an investigator; and,
- **Kristil Hayes**, will serve as administrative account clerk in our fiscal division.

Please visit our website for employment opportunities.

The Executive Ethics Commission Releases Six Redacted OEIG Summary Reports



Today, the Executive Ethics Commission released six redacted final summary reports related to matters investigated by the OEIG. Below is a summary of the six reports:

- *In re: **Anthony Hawkins**, 10-01591*, involved a DHS employee who was found to have sexually harassed agency clients. Mr. Hawkins resigned in lieu of termination.
- *In re: **Diane Hopkins**, 10-00336*, involved a DHS employee who was found to have violated multiple DHS policies by inappropriately using benefits. Ms. Hopkins was terminated.
- *In re: **Cynthia Joiner**, 09-00127*, involved a DHS employee who was found to have received numerous travel reimbursements to which she was not entitled. Ms. Joiner was terminated.
- *In re: **Assyrian National Council of Illinois**, 10-00259*, involved a Department on Aging service provider whose staff falsified multiple timesheets. The Department is now seeking reimbursement of nearly \$35,000.
- *In re: **Medesa Dickerson, et al.**, 10-00100*, involved three DHS employees who authorized inappropriate expenditures.
- *In re: **Harry Elston**, 10-00438*, involved an Emergency Management Agency employee who was found to have violated various agency policies.

Please visit our website to read the full reports of these matters, as well as other recently released OEIG summary reports.

Erin K. Bonales
Deputy Inspector General, Chicago Office

Notice to Agencies of OEIG "Unfounded" Reports

After the OEIG completes an investigation and concludes there is insufficient evidence that a violation occurred, i.e., the allegation is "unfounded," we provide the EEC with a written statement of our decision to close the investigation. The EEC then has discretion to:

- request the OEIG to re-open the "unfounded" investigation;
- appoint a Special Executive Inspector General to investigate the matter; or
- refer the matter to the Attorney General.

Although the Ethics Act does not require the OEIG to notify a potentially affected agency or ultimate jurisdictional authority (such as the Governor) of an "unfounded" investigation, we have generally done so. Beginning Dec. 1, 2011, if an allegation of misconduct is "unfounded," the OEIG will simply close the investigation without informing the agency or UJA. Investigative subjects, however, may nevertheless obtain written notice of the OEIG's decision to close a specific investigation in those circumstances where they were identified as subjects.

Cole S. Kain
Chief of Staff and General Counsel

Calendar of Events: March 14-15, 2012: All Staff Training, Champaign, IL; March 27-30, 2012: Investigator Edward Escamilla will attend Inspector General Academy Public Corruption Training, Glynnco, Ga.